

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (*Currently amended*) A method for imparting antiviral properties to a hydrophilic polymeric material comprising preparing a hydrophilic polymeric slurry, dispersing an ionic copper powder ~~mixture containing~~ consisting essentially of water-insoluble copper cuprous oxide and cupric oxide in said slurry and then extruding or molding said slurry to form a hydrophilic polymeric material, wherein said water-insoluble particles ~~that~~ release both Cu^{++} and Cu^{+} and are directly and completely encapsulated within said hydrophilic polymeric material.

2. (*Currently amended*) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ionic copper powder ~~mixture~~ is prepared by oxidation-reduction.

3. (*Original*) A method according to claim 2 wherein said reduction is carried out using formaldehyde as a reductant.

Claims 4-19 (*Canceled*)